THE MINISTER OF STATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FODD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This Ministry has formulated seversal developmental plan schemes for providing assistance for setting up of fruit & vegetable processing units, development of backward linkages, infrastructure developments, marketing, cold chains, diversification of deep sea fishing operations, setting up of fish processing units etc. A scheme for rehabilitation of the sick deep-sea fishing companies was announced in April, 1991 which had been further liberalised in June, 1992. A new deep sea fishing policy of joint ventures, leasing and test fishing has been operationalised.

(d) and (e) During the year 1992-93, under plan scheme of generic advertising on processed foods and for providing marketing assistance, a sum of approx. Rs. 42 lakhs was spent for popularising Food Product Order Symbol (FPO symbol) as well as for creating consumer awareness/ confidence about advantages such as hygence, confidence, off-seasonal availability, etc. of processed fruit & vegetable products. During the year 1993-94, a provision of Rs. 1.50 crores has been made under the above scheme for the generic publicity of processed food for domestic market and export as well as providing marketing assistance for marketing of products of small scale food processing units.

SHORTAGE OF ANTI-T.B. MEDICINES

282. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the anti-tuberculosis medicines have been virtually out of stock in the various Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have received requisitions for supply of medicines from the State Health Departments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) Some shortage was reported in the early part of last financial year, thereafter Central supply of Anti-T. B. Drugs has been increased from Rs. 8.22 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 26.5 crores in 1992-93.

ENHANCEMENT IN THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN THE NORTHERN STATES

283. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infant mortality rate is increasing day by day due to Khasra, Kalaazar, Kali-Khansi and other infectious diseases in the Northern States, particularly in Bihar and U.P.

(b) if so, the number of such deaths till March, 1993, and details thereof disease-wise; and

(c) what are the steps taken/likely to be taken by Govt. to prevent infant mortality, details thereof State-wise, stating any special drive to be launched by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) As per data furnished by the Registrar General of India, there has been a decline in the infant mortality rate in all the northern states except Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh since, 1988.

(b) Age specific disease-wise record of deaths in the states are not maintained.

(c) Measures taken to reduce infant mortality rate include, interalia, immunization, oral rehydration therapy, prophylaxis of anaemia and Vitamin A deficiency, newborn care, treatment of pneumonia and promotion of breastfeeding.